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## ADDITION TO THE BUILDING.

The contract for the new galleries above Blackstone Hall, constituting the East Front of the building, has been let, and work is just beginning. These galleries, bearing numbers on the plan from 46 to 53, complete the square of the second floor, and will add more than one-half to the sky-lighted hanging space. There will be seven new picture galleries and two store rooms which may later easily be converted into small galleries. There will also be two fine long sky-lighted galleries or class rooms above corridors 49 and 54. Four of these galleries are 45x26 feet, or almost exactly the dimensions of the larger Nickerson Room, the Field Room, the Hutchinson Room and Room 27 of the South wing, which are the most elegantly proportioned and the most convenient type of gallery we have. The stone work of the East front will be completed at the same time, at a cost for the whole improvement of about \$105,000. Last October Mr. James A. Patten offered to contribute \$25,000 towards the construction of these new galleries. The Trustees have been able to raise by subscription \$46,000 additional, making a total of \$71,000. The subscription is now in progress, and we appeal to the members and friends of the Art Institute for their assistance in raising the additional \$30,000 necessary.

The galleries will be ready for occupation at the time of the Annual Reception next October. This will complete our building except the central stairway and dome, and certain sculptured work of the exterior.

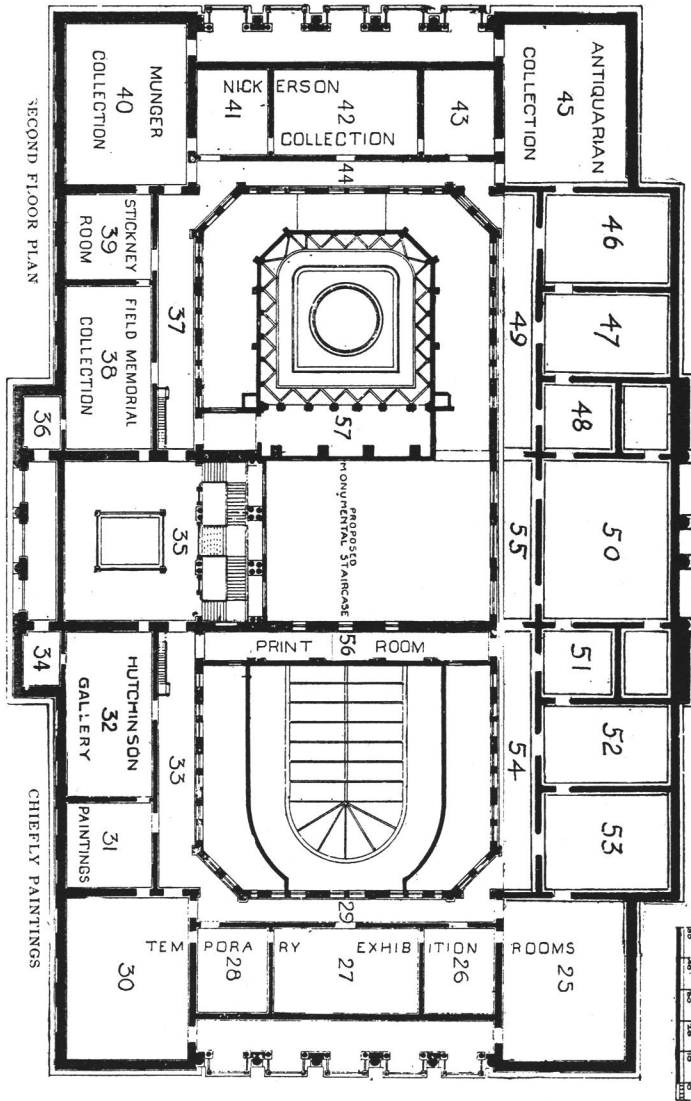
We have, after all recent discussions, adhered to the plan of very broad and unbroken sky-lights and very narrow coves in the galleries, believing them the best at least for our

climate, since it is much easier to shut out light if excessive than to add it if deficient. The floor will be of cement covered with linoleum or cork carpet with black marble borders.

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS.

The Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists occupied two of the galleries from January 5 to January 24. This year, varying from the usual custom of the society, the jury of selection met at St. Louis, and the exhibition was first shown there. The exhibit was an interesting one, showing special strength in the number and character of the landscapes, most of which were typically western in motive. The large gallery was completely hung with oils, while the smaller room was occupied by the water colors, etchings and miniatures and the remaining oils. The Fine Arts Building Prize was awarded to Charles Francis Browne for his two landscapes, "Autumn," and "A Hill-side;" and the Wednesday Club, St. Louis, Prize to Miss Ethel Mars for her strikingly decorative painting, "Woman with a Monkey." The Western Society pictures have been shown, since their exhibition here, at Cleveland, Pittsburg, Cincinnati and Indianapolis, and they will visit a number of other cities during the Spring.

At the same time with the Western, four special exhibitions were held. Galleries 25 and 26 were filled with drawings by Edwin H. Blashfield, preliminary studies for the mural paintings which have engrossed his attention for several years. The delicacy and precision of the drawings, as well as the dignity and scholarship of the compositions for which they served, gave this work a special interest for the art students.



# PLAN SHOWING NEW GALLERIES.

The galleries now in course of construction are Nos. 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53. They will increase the hanging space of the second floor considerably more than one-half.

The middle gallery was hung with landscapes, for the most part of California scenes, by William Wendt, of Los Angeles and Chicago. Mr. Wendt's work is technically interesting for the firm and accurate study of ground levels and tree forms, and for the brilliancy and atmospheric quality of the skies. The decorative character of many of his compositions, together with the sunny outlook and freshness of color, made this room popular with the visiting public as well as persons interested in the technique of landscape. In the same room were shown a number of small pieces of sculpture, including portrait busts and reliefs, delicate statuettes and fountain designs, by Julia Bracken Wendt.

An exhibition of works by Albert Sterner of New York, who was formerly a student in the Art Institute, was shown in Room 31. Mr. Sterner's exhibit included portraits in oil, a few canvases of a decorative and ideal type, and many portraits in crayon and chalk, all highly creditable to the artist, both in draughtsmanship and characterization.

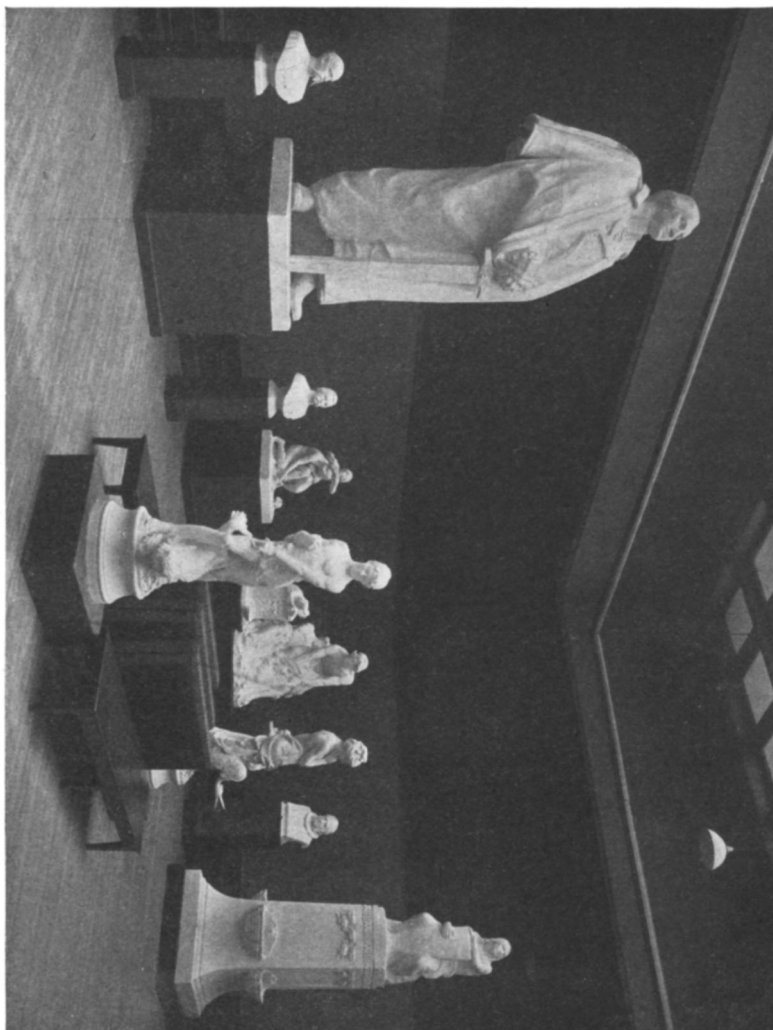
These exhibitions were succeeded, from February 2 to February 28, by the works of Artists of Chicago and Vicinity, shown under the joint auspices of the Art Institute and the Municipal Art League of Chicago. This exhibition was as usual among the best attended of the year, and was notable for the high standard of taste and execution displayed throughout. Landscapes, both foreign and local, were greatly in the majority, comparatively a small number of portraits and figure compositions being shown. The various clubs and organizations interested in the fine arts held receptions in the galleries almost daily through the month of February, and the general public was encouraged to make a study of the works.

The medal of the Chicago Society of Artists was awarded to H. Leon Roecker for his landscape, "Plowing in Spring," and the Municipal Art League purchased for its collection "An Offshore Wind," by Mrs. Eleanor R. Colburn. Other prizes awarded were the following: Young Fortnightly Prize, to Mrs. Bertha Menzler Dressler, for her "Desert in Sunshine and Shadow;" the Grower Prize for best group of paintings, to Edgar S. Cameron; Honorable mention in sculpture, to Clyde S. Chandler for her "Kathleen;" special award, Municipal Art League, for ideal conception in sculpture, to E. Louise Guernsey, for her "Drinking Fountain;" award for ideal conception in sculpture, Municipal Art League, given by Mrs. John Charles Shaffer, to George E. Ganière, for group called "The Toilers."

The Exhibition of the Chicago Architectural Club was opened March 9, composed of architectural designs, decorations, photographs of recent buildings of artistic merit, and plans submitted in competition for the scholarships offered by the Club and the Chicago School of Architecture. A number of models, and various works of plastic ornament added variety to the exhibit. At the same time a collection of recent paintings by Frank C. Peyraud of Chicago was shown. Mr. Peyraud's work is for the most part landscape of a strongly decorative type, varied and harmonious in color, dignified in composition and unaffected in handling.

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An interesting collection of Navajo and Mexican rugs and blankets, loaned by Mrs. Anna M. Kendall, has been on exhibition in the Artists' Club Room during the month of March, chiefly for the benefit of the students.



SCULPTURE ROOM. (Gallery 25.)  
Annual Exhibition of Artists of Chicago, 1909.